Meghalaya is 30. The whole State being a Tribal majority State is covered by RPDS. Over 1700 Blocks are covered in the entire country. Apart from key essential commodities, such as rice, wheat, levy sugar, Kerosene, Imported edible oil other items such as iodised salt, washing soap and matches are distributed in some areas.

The consumer price of levy sugar distributed through PDS is Rs. 8.30 per kg. The Central Issue Prices (CIP) of foodgrains for RPDS are as follows :—

(Rs. per Quintal w.e.f. 11-1-93)

Common Rice	387.00
Fine Rice	447.00
Super Fine Rice	460.00
Wheat	280.00

State Governments have been requested to fix the retail prices of foodgrains in RPDS areas not exceeding the CIP by more than 25 paise per kg.

World Bank suggestion on beneficiaries under P.D.S.

1452. SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM : Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the World Bank has issued any directions to his Ministry to reduce the number of Beneficiaries under the Public Distribution System ;

(b) if so, what are the details of suggestions from the World Bank; and

(c) if not, the reasons for reducing the number of beneficiaries ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED) : (a) No, Sir,

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No decision in this regard has been taken. However, at the 15th meeting of the PDS Advisory Council it was unanimously resolved that a National Policy on PDS be evolved with a view to ensuring larger and more meaningful quantities of foodgrains to the really needy and poor.

Losses of Hindustan Vegetable Oils Corporation Limited

1453. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH : Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Hindustan Vegetable Oils Corporation Limited incurred an avoidable extra expenditure of Rs. 1 crore in paying for tin cans for refined edible oils;

(b) if so, what are the facts in this regard;

(c) the extent of loss suffered by this Company;

(d) whether tenders were invited, if so, the details thereof;

(e) if not, what were the reasons therefor; and

(f) what action was taken against the person found guilty of such lapses ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED) : (a) to (f) CAG's audit have pointed out an extra expenditure of Rs. 1 crore having been incurred by HVOC during 1984-85 in the purchase of tin cans. In June, 1984, Central Purchase Committee of HVOC approved supply of 5 kg tins at Rs. 9.50 effective from 1-5-1984. In November, 1984, the price was raised to Rs. 10.50 again effective from 1-5-1984, increase of rupee